

Police



Town Clerk Nancy Oates administers the Oath of office to new Police Chief Mark DeLuca as daughter Ali looks on Monday night at Town Hall.

Photo by Mark Cabana

Mark DeLuca Sworn in as New Police Chief

By SUSANNA SHEEHAN

Surrounded by a standing-room only crowd of friends, family, including his wife, five children, mother, three brothers, fellow Boston police officers, Duxbury police officers and town officials, Mark DeLuca was sworn in as the new chief of police Monday night.

After taking the oath of office from Town Clerk Nancy Oates and thanking his supporters for coming DeLuca said, "I'm looking forward to getting going. I want to get going." He began his new job Tuesday morning.

DeLuca, 40, of Whitman, left his position as sergeant on the Boston police force to come to Duxbury. He had been on the Boston force for 10 years, begin-

ning as a uniformed officer then quickly moving into a plain clothes anti-crime unit that identified and disrupted gang and drug activity. DeLuca attained the rank of sergeant in 1993.

When asked why he made the move from patrolling the streets to the top manager's job, DeLuca answered: "I've been on the streets 17 years. I was ready for a change."

DeLuca wouldn't specify any of his first actions after taking the reins, saying he wanted to get "a lay of the land" and was eager to begin, but he did pledge to bring back the police color guard, which was dis-

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Mark DeLuca Sworn in as Town's Ninth Chief of Police

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was dissolved during the previous chief's tenure.

"You'll see us in the Fourth of July parade," said DeLuca.

At the reception following the swearing-in ceremony, the new chief, his wife Lynne and five children, Mark, 11, Matthew, 9, Zachary, 6, Rachel, 4 and Allie, 3, were greeted warmly by town officials and by the many Duxbury police officers, including former Duxbury police chief Enrico Cappucci, who came to lend their support.

This showing impressed Town Manager Rocco Longo. "It's fair to say he's the first chief I've worked with who's made an impact on the job be-

fore starting by bringing all these people together," he said, pointing out DeLuca's extended family, his fellow Boston officers, a representative of

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- Selectman Andre Martecchini

the governor's office, Cappucci and all the local police officers. Having so many Duxbury police officers attend was "a defi-

nite indication the police want to work with us," said Longo.

Longo added that DeLuca and Cappucci did not know each other. He said DeLuca had only contacted the former chief during the interviewing process to learn more about the town and the position.

The Duxbury police union had given the previous police chief Charles Mazzone a no-confidence vote last year. Mazzone resigned after two years for health reasons.

Selectman Andre Martecchini echoed Longo's feelings about the police presence. "The turn-out is fantastic," he said. "One of the things I'm very pleased about is the number of Duxbury police who came. I think that says a

lot about our decision."

Selectman Margaret Kearney called the crowd of supporters "a real testament to the choice we made" and "a great showing."

DeLuca was chosen by a police chief search committee from a field of 65 applicants, 14 semi-finalists and three finalists, two of whom were interviewed. Before beginning his career in Boston, DeLuca worked on the Metro Dade police department in Miami, Fl. for four years, where he was also a member of a SWAT team. He also served as a Boston Police Academy instructor for two years and was awarded the Boston police department medal of honor in 1995 and received that department's

commissioner's commendation three times. DeLuca is also the chairman of the Massachusetts

boxing commission, a position appointed by the governor. This organization regulates all boxing events within the state. DeLuca was the light heavy weight golden gloves champion in 1982.

Duxbury's new chief gained his bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Springfield College and is also pursuing his master's degree.



DeLuca